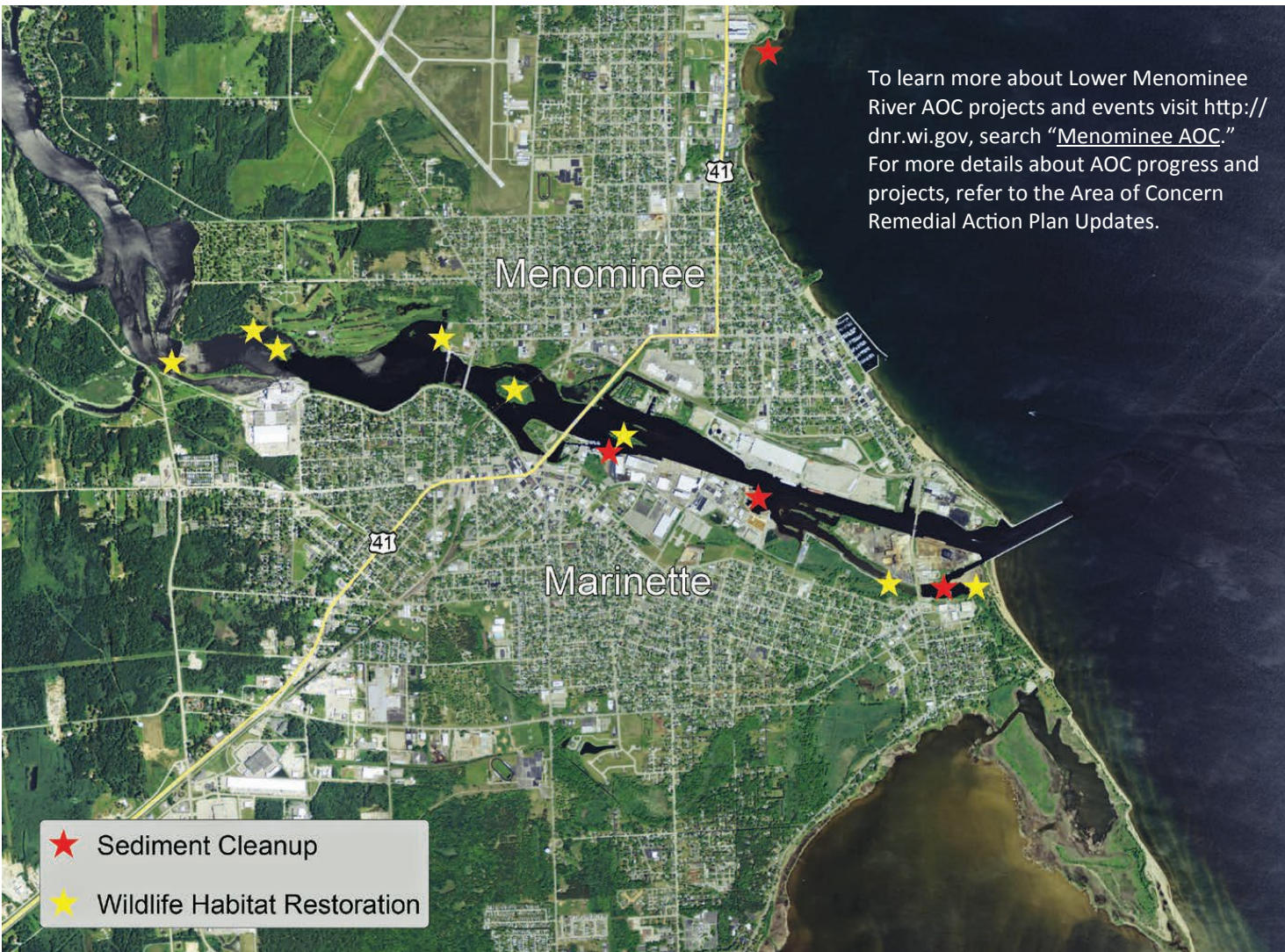


Lower Menominee River Area of Concern

Reaching our targets will lead us to our goal of delisting the AOC, which means the ecological benefits of the Lower Menominee River have been restored to an acceptable level. We will have achieved this when public uses are no longer impaired by legacy contamination and native plants and wildlife are sustainably protected. With toxic sediments removed and as habitat restoration continues, the river is becoming a more and more valuable resource for recreation and the local economy.

Restoration Sites in the Lower Menominee River Area of Concern



Lower Menominee River—part of the largest fresh surface water resource in the world—the Great Lakes ecosystem



Wisconsin DNR Office of Great Waters

Brochure developed by the UW-Extension Regional Natural Resources Program and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Office of Great Waters. Graphic design by Jeffrey J. Strobel, UW-Extension Environmental Resources Center.



Lower Menominee River Area of Concern

BENEFICIAL USE IMPAIRMENT RESTORATION REPORT

Summer 2017

The Lower Menominee River

was designated an Area of Concern (AOC) in the 1980s because contaminated river sediment impaired public benefits such as fish consumption, healthy fisheries, shipping channels and wildlife habitat.



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and citizen groups identified six Beneficial Use Impairments to target here for improving the river.

See the progress report inside. ➡



Lower Menominee River AOC – Restoration Status Update

Summer 2017

Tackling AOC problems, known as Beneficial Use Impairments in the Area of Concern program, requires several steps. We must understand the causes and define the extent of the impairments through monitoring, assessment, and data analysis. We then determine the necessary actions to address the problems, and implement them.

After decades of hard work, Menominee has completed all of its necessary actions. Now, the focus is on formally removing BUIs and monitoring fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects to verify that AOC fish and wildlife goals are being met.

This update shows the current status (Summer 2017) of the removal phases for six impairments of the Lower Menominee River AOC – *complete, underway, or not started* – and the next steps. Dates in parentheses indicate the anticipated project completion.



Restoration work on Strawberry Island (top photo) improved habitat for colonial nesting birds, such as these egrets.

BUI Removal Phases:

MA

MONITOR & ASSESS: define the problem, gather data and review literature, consult with experts.

DP

DEVELOP AOC PROJECTS: engage stakeholders to develop the set of projects that are necessary for reaching AOC goals.

IP

IMPLEMENT PROJECTS: take action to improve conditions within the AOC if monitoring data shows goals are not being met.

VR

VERIFY RESULTS: after actions have been taken, monitor to determine if target has been met.

RM

FORMAL BUI REMOVAL: targets have been met. BUI removal documentation is being prepared or reviewed, or has been submitted.

Status of Each Phase:

Not Started

Underway

Complete

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There are health concerns with eating fish and wildlife

NEXT STEPS:

- Complete BUI removal documentation and associated public review process.
- Submit final BUI removal documentation to USEPA for concurrence (2017).

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VR

RM

Fish & wildlife populations are degraded

NEXT STEPS:

- Monitor and maintain Menekaunee Harbor and South Channel habitat restorations.
- Monitor and maintain Menominee River island habitat restoration.
- Assess whether fish and wildlife goals are being met (2017).
- If goals are being met, start formal BUI removal process (2017).

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Communities of sediment-dwelling organisms are degraded

This Beneficial Use Impairment's removal phases are successfully completed and a formal BUI removal application has been accepted.

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DP

IP

VR

RM



Prairie restored at Menekaunee Harbor after the area was dredged to remove polluted sediments (above).



Nesting structures for birds and bats (above) and native vegetation plantings (upper right) restored the wetland habitat at South Channel. Sturgeon like this one are carefully examined after they pass through the fish elevator installed at the Menominee Dam to help them get upstream to spawn (right).



Dredging activities for commerce or navigation are restricted

This Beneficial Use Impairment's removal phases are successfully completed and a formal BUI removal application has been accepted.

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Water contact through beach use or other recreation is limited

This Beneficial Use Impairment's removal phases are successfully completed and a formal BUI removal application has been accepted.

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MA

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RM

Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

NEXT STEPS:

- Monitor and maintain Menekaunee Harbor and South Channel habitat restorations.
- Monitor and maintain Menominee River island habitat restoration.
- Assess whether fish and wildlife goals are being met (2017).
- If goals are being met, start formal BUI removal process (2017).

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